

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended. Claims 1, 2, 4 - 21 are currently pending.

The present application was discussed at an applicant-initiated interview with the Examiner on June 15, 2005. Applicants thank the Examiner for agreeing to the interview, and the present amendments reflect the amendments discussed at the interview.

Rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 - 2 and 4 - 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Moon et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,385,662 (“Moon”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because Moon does not disclose each and every limitation recited in amended claims 1 and 8.

Moon discloses techniques for processing information and teaches a user interface display upon which a status bar is presented to the user. Following a particular instance of an event, a status message is displayed within the status bar. For example, Moon discloses displaying a message icon in response to the receipt of a particular email message. When a user chooses to ignore the message, it is removed from the status bar and is placed into a history file. Subsequently, a user may indicate a desire to view this history file, and Moon displays an event log. Moon, col. 5, ll. 38 – 41 (“When the user is ready to respond to one or more events which were previously ignored, the history icon is selected 240, the status bar history file is accessed, and the event log is displayed 405, shown in FIG. 4.”) The displayed event log is not a redisplay of the message icon, rather the event log shows “relevant information regarding the event, including event type date, time, telephone number (if applicable), and the like.” Moon, col. 5, ll.

41 – 45. Thus, Moon teaches displaying an event log in response to a user input requesting to view hidden items, not the redisplay of a notification icon in the notification area.

In contrast, amended claim 1 recites “upon receipt of a user input indicating a desire to view said notification area icon, redisplaying the notification area icon in the notification area.” Similarly, amended claim 8 recites “upon receipt of a user input indicating a desire to view the hidden notification area icons, repeating said displaying each of the notification item icons in the notification area.” Moon teaches displaying of an event log in response to a user input, not redisplaying each of the notification icons in the notification area. Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 and claim 8 are in condition for allowance.

Furthermore, Applicants submit that dependent claims 2, and 4-7, which depend from claim 1, are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Applicants also submit that dependent claims 9-14, which depend from claim 8, are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 8.

Rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 15-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Oran et al., U. S. Patent No. 5,757,371 (“Oran”) and Moon. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because neither Oran nor Moon discloses each and every limitation set forth in amended, independent claim 15.

Moon has been previously discussed. Oran teaches a graphical user interface having a taskbar that includes various elements such as a start menu button, a clock, a taskbar notification area, and buttons associated with currently active tasks. The interface of Oran may

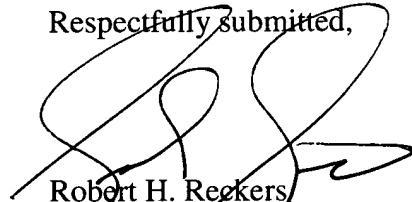
provide a taskbar properties selection interface from which a user can select various display options or taskbar properties. For example, one of the taskbar properties is “Auto hide.” When enabled, this feature causes the taskbar to hide from the display when the mouse cursor is not hovering over the task bar area. The taskbar properties selection interface also includes an option to “Show the clock.” With this control, the user can decide whether or not a clock will be displayed in the taskbar. Importantly, the taskbar interface taught by Oran neither displays each of the user’s notification icons nor provides user selectable hiding behaviors for each of the notifications. Accordingly, Oran does not provide a interface that displays icons outside of the taskbar or that allows a user to select different hiding behaviors for the various notifications currently on the task bar.

In contrast, amended claim 15 requires “displaying the notification item icon” in “a display area apart from the notification area”. Oran does not contemplate an interface where notification icons are displayed apart from the notification area. Further, Oran does not teach separate user-selectable characteristics for each displayed notification item. Moon also does not teach the present interface. Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claim 15 is in condition for allowance

Furthermore, Applicants submit that dependent claims 16 - 21, which depend from claim 15, are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 15.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, claims 1, 2, and 4 - 21 are now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the pending rejections and allowance of claims 1, 2, and 4 - 21. If any issues remain which would prevent issuance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned prior to issuing a subsequent action. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional amount required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-2112.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert H. Reekers
Reg. No. 54,633

RHR

SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P.
2555 Grand Blvd.
Kansas City, Missouri 64108-2613
Phone: 816/474-6550
Fax: 816-421-5547